

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing a sterilization system, ~~in particular for sterilizing drinking water and industrial water~~, characterized in that ~~the~~ a noble metal surface of a base material comprising noble metal is first oxidized in an acidic solution and then treated ~~in~~ with an aqueous salt solution.
2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the noble metal is copper, silver or gold.
3. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the base material is a solid body made of noble metal or an alloy comprising noble metal, a noble metal wire, noble metal wool, knitted noble metal fabric or woven noble metal fabric, a support coated with noble metal or a mixed woven fabric or mixed knitted fabric made of noble metal, ~~in particular together with synthetic and/or carbon fibers~~, or a noble metal powder, a shaped body comprising noble metal powder, or a coating comprising noble metal powder.
4. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the acidic solution has a pH less than 1 and/or comprises water and/or the acidic solution

comprises oxidizing inorganic or organic acids and/or mixtures of non-oxidizing acids with water-soluble oxidizing agents.

5. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the acidic solution comprises acids which contain nitrogen in oxidation state +5, sulfur in oxidation state +VI, the halides chlorine, bromine and iodine in oxidation state +5 or +7, boron in oxidation state +3, manganese in oxidation state +7 and/or oxygen in oxidation state -1 or -2.

6. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the salt solution comprises hydroxide, carbonate, chloride, bromide, permanganate, chlorate, perchlorate, percarbonate, persulfate, iodate, periodate, perborate, oxalate, bromate and/or perbromate ions and/or anions of pharmacologically active noble metal compounds.

7. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the aqueous salt solution is weakly acidic ($\text{pH} > 4$) to alkaline (pH approximately 11), ~~particularly preferably neutral or alkaline~~, and/or the aqueous salt solution and/or the acidic solution is 0.1% by weight to saturated or concentrated, respectively, and/or the aqueous solution is free from ammonium compounds or sulfide ions.

8. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the base

material, after the oxidation and before the treatment ~~in~~ with the salt solution, is quenched with water, ~~in particular tap water.~~

9. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the oxidation of the noble metal surface in the acidic solution and/or the quenching with water and/or the treatment ~~in~~ with the salt solution is performed in a temperature range between 10°C and 130°C, ~~preferably at below 80°C, and particularly preferably at 20°C ± 5°C.~~

Claims 10-16 (Canceled).

17. (New) The process as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the fabric is made of noble metal together with synthetic and/or carbon fibers.

18. (New) The process as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the aqueous salt solution is neutral or alkaline.

19. (New) The process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the treatment with the salt solution is performed in a temperature range below 80°C.